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No 3

FORBIDDEN WORLDS

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TALES
of the
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UNKNOWN!

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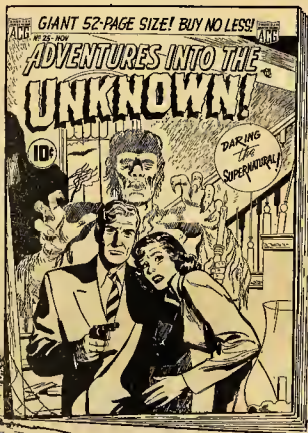


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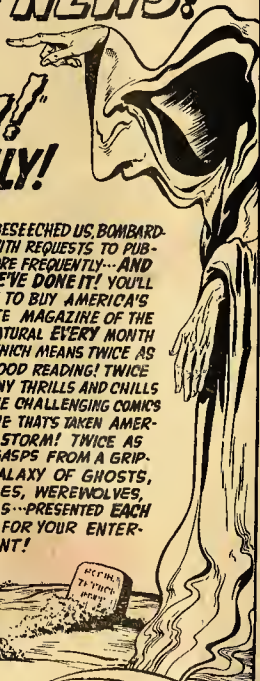
YOU'VE BESEEKED US, BOMBARD-
ED US WITH REQUESTS TO PUBL-
ISH MORE FREQUENTLY...AND
NOW WE'VE DONE IT! YOU'LL
BE ABLE TO BUY AMERICA'S
FAVORITE MAGAZINE OF THE
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NOW--WHICH MEANS TWICE AS
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AS MANY THRILLS AND CHILLS
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MAGAZINE THAT'S TAKEN AMER-
ICA BY STORM! TWICE AS
MANY GASPS FROM A GRIP-
PING GALAXY OF GHOSTS,
VAMPIRES, WEREWOLVES,
ZOMBIES...PRESENTED EACH
MONTH FOR YOUR ENTER-
TAINMENT!

Read THIS GREAT MAGAZINE FOR
OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD WONDERS SUCH AS
YOU'VE NEVER SEEN...FOR A THRILL-
TIME EXPERIENCE YOU'LL REMEMBER
FOREVER! IT'S ALL IN---

"ADVENTURES INTO THE UNKNOWN!"

Now PUBLISHED
MONTHLY.

10¢ ON ALL
STANDS



LAIR *of the* VAMPIRE



SOMETIMES, IN THE MUFFLED DARK OF THE MOON, A STRANGE SOUND RISES ABOVE THE GIBBERING MIND--THE RUSTLE OF HUGE WINGS! DOWN THROUGH THE BARE GAUNT TREES THEY FLAP... DOWN THROUGH THE TREMBLING CURTAINS OF A SLEEPER'S WINDOW--READY TO BEAR ANOTHER SCREAMING VICTIM TO THE

LAIR *of the* VAMPIRE!

SOMEBODY IN CENTRAL EUROPE--

THERE IT IS, GLORIA! I'VE BEEN WAITING TO COME HERE EVER SINCE I FOUND THAT OLD PHOTOGRAPH--IT'S A NATURAL FOR MY BOOK ON ANCIENT CASTLES!

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY THERE'S NO ROAD LEADING TO THE CASTLE, PAT! BESIDES BEING A PROBLEM TO BUILD--HOW COULD ANYONE POSSIBLY LIVE THERE?



WAY BACK, THERE PROBABLY WAS A ROAD, HONEY--IT'S JUST BEEN SWEEPED AWAY BY LANDSLIDES OR EROSION!

MAYBE--BUT THAT DOESN'T EXPLAIN MY STRANGE FEELING THAT THERE'S SOMEONE LIVING UP THERE NOW!

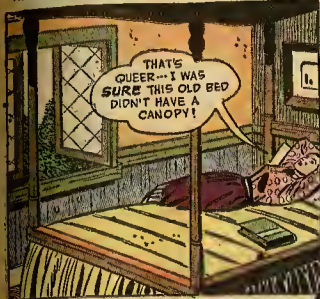


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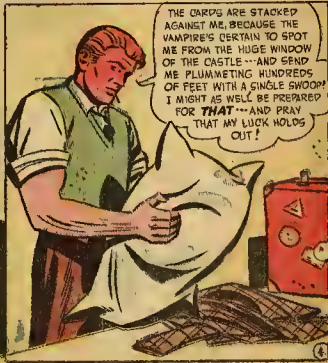
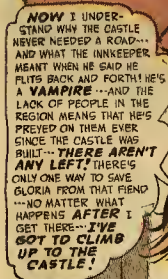
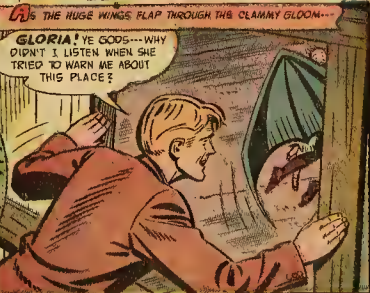
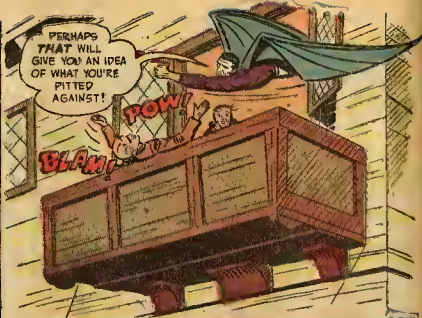
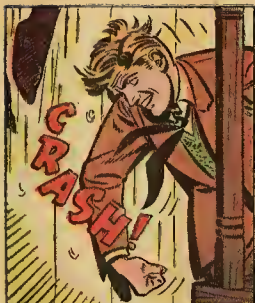


LONG PAST MIDNIGHT, AS A CHILL CREEPS THROUGH THE ROOM... FURTIVE AS THE PANTING BREATH OF EVIL...

THEN... WITH THE FAINT HINT OF A WHITE AND STARING FACE ABOVE HER...



HAA
HA
HA!



MINUTES LATER... UP THE BEETLING
CRAGS SURMOUNTED BY A LAIR OF HORROR...



SOON AFTERWARD...

JUST AS I
EXPECTED, HE'S
SPOTTED ME--
AND NOW'S THE
TIME I'D BETTER
ODDGE!

SECONDS LATER... WITH HIS DABBED FINGERS
HISSING THROUGH THE AIR LIKE THE GUMMERS
OF DEATH...

I KNEW YOU'D
BE FOOL ENOUGH
TO COME AFTER HER
--AND THIS IS AS
FAR AS YOU'RE
GETTING!



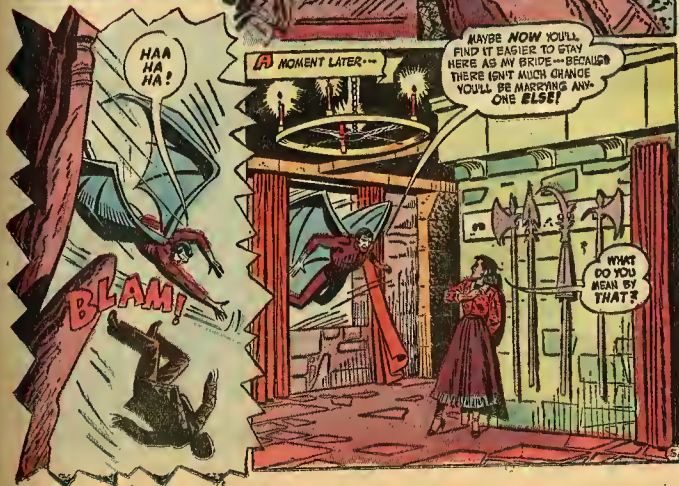
HAA
HA
HA!

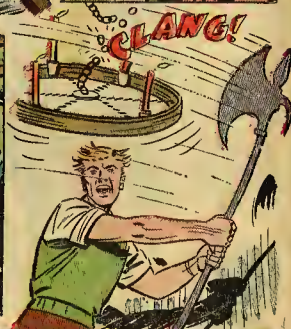
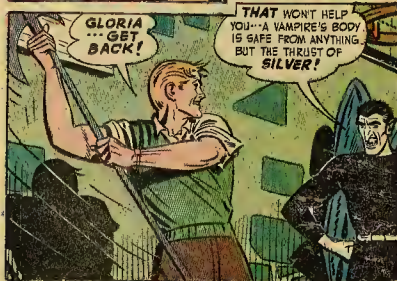
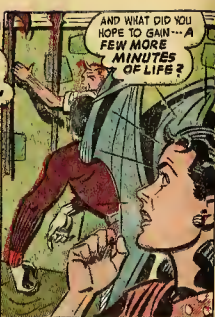
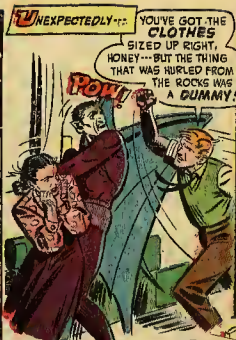
A MOMENT LATER...

MAYBE NOW YOU'LL
FIND IT EASIER TO STAY
HERE AS MY BRIDE--BECAUSE
THERE ISN'T MUCH CHANCE
YOU'LL BE MARRYING ANY-
ONE ELSE!

BLAM!

WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN BY
THAT?





WE'RE JUST GETTING OURSELVES IN A WORSE TRAP THAN EVER, PAT... WE'LL **NEVER** ESCAPE FROM THE CASTLE ROOF!

THERE'S NO USE **TRYING** TO ESCAPE WHILE THE VAMPIRE'S STILL ALIVE! I TRICKED HIM ONCE, AND MAYBE I CAN DO IT **AGAIN** IN AN ATTEMPT TO FINISH HIM OFF... BECAUSE TRYING TO **FIGHT** HIM OFF WILL BE SHEER SUICIDE!



A MOMENT LATER... ON THE WIND-SWEPT HEIGHTS...

HE'S COMING, PAT! WHAT IN HEAVEN WILL WE DO?

KEEP YOUR HEAD... **AND HIDE!** THIS WHOLE IDEA WILL BE WORTHLESS IF THE VAMPIRE CATCHES SIGHT OF YOU!



HAA! IS THIS THE WAY YOU EXPECTED TO ESCAPE?

THERE'S NO USE LOOKING FOR GLORIA... **SHE'S** JUST BEEN PICKED UP BY THE HELICOPTER I ARRANGED FOR! I'LL BE BACK TO GET **ME** IN A FEW MINUTES... AND UNTIL THEN, I'LL BE SAFE RIGHT HERE!



SAFE! FOOL... DO YOU THINK THAT PERCH IS ANY OBSTACLE TO **ME?**

SUPPOSE YOU TRY TO CLIMB UP... AND FIND OUT? COME ON, CREEP... **GET ME!** I'M ITCHING FOR A CHANCE TO KICK YOUR UGLY FACE IN... WHILE YOU'RE CLINGING TO THE POLE!



YOU FORGET I CAN **FLY!** ALL I HAVE TO DO IS DIVE LIKE A HAWK... AND **THIS** TIME I'LL BE GURE I'LL WHO HURTLES TO THE ROCKS BELOW!



AS THE EVIL SHAPE FLAPS HIGHER IN THE MOONLIGHT...

HE'S READY TO DIVE! ONE WAY OR ANOTHER... **THIS'LL BE THE PAYOFF!**





THEN...WITH INCREASING VELOCITY...

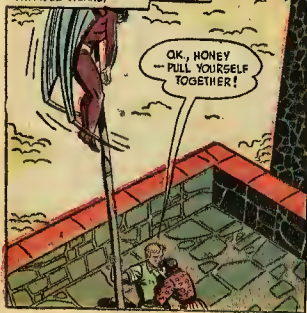
PAT... I CAN'T WATCH! YOU'LL BE KILLED!

IN THE NEXT SPLIT SECOND...



AAAGH!

AS THE CRINKLED BLACK WINGS TREMBLE WEAKLY...



OK, HONEY -- PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER!



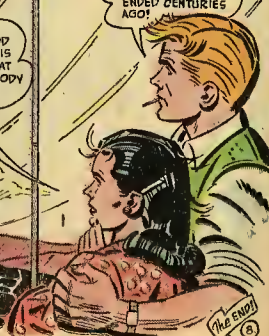
SO THAT HELICOPTER STORY WAS ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO OUTWIT ME, EN? THAT GIVES YOU A PRETTY THOUGHT TO DIE WITH...BECAUSE SHE'LL BE A VAMPIRE'S VICTIM BEFORE YOU HIT THE GROUND!

TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT YOU'RE HITTING, FREAK!



RIGHT! I REMEMBERED JUST A FEW MINUTES AGO THAT MEDIEVAL CASTLE BUILDERS THOUGHT THAT SILVER-TIPPED FLAG POLES COULD WARD OFF LIGHTNING--AND THAT'S JUST WHAT WE NEEDED TO SNUFF OUT A LIFE THAT SHOULD HAVE ENDED CENTURIES AGO!

HE'S DEAD! GOOD HEAVENS, PAT--IS THAT POINT THAT PIERCED HIS BODY SILVER?



THE END!

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The RETURN

THE THIRD DAY after Mrs. Peabody had settled into her new summer cottage on Lake Owasen, she decided to pay a visit to her nearest neighbor a few hundred yards down the path that skirted the shore. But before she had even gotten within sight of her neighbor's house in the tree-fringed cove, Mrs. Peabody's attention was drawn to the woehegone figure of a little girl crouching at the water's edge, staring soulfully into the blue depths.

As Mrs. Peabody approached, she was startled to see that the girl's clothes and hair were dripping wet, and that her skin had the awful white pallor of a shroud.

She's probably just recovered from a long illness, Mrs. Peabody thought. That would explain her ghastly whiteness. This might be her very first day out-of-doors, but she'll probably be having a relapse after that wetting she apparently just got.

"How did you get so wet, child?" Mrs. Peabody asked with concern. "Did you fall into the lake?"

The girl looked up at her with eyes of cloudy blue. "Oh, yes," she said gravely. "And it was cold. So cold...for so long."

"Well, why don't you go on home and get dry and warm? You'll catch your death sitting there like that!"

The girl smiled slowly, sadly. "You don't catch death. Death catches you. But it isn't so bad. He looks very terrible, but he's very gentle with little girls. It didn't hurt much."

The poor thing's delirious, Mrs. Peabody thought in alarm. "Where do you live, child? I'll have to take you home right away!"

"Oh, you're coming into the lake with me!" the girl exclaimed, standing up with a pleased expression on her face. "That'll be fun! There's no one else down there

except some grouchy old fisherman. Come on...take my hand and I'll show you how easy it is. All you have to do is step right into the lake and..."

Mrs. Peabody drew back in horror as she felt the icy clamminess of the girl's hand touching hers. The child's temperature must be terribly low due to shock and exposure, she thought wildly; that was the only explanation for the deathly leanness of that touch. And as for what the girl had said...well, that was merely the ravings of a sick mind.

Realizing that the delirious girl probably wouldn't obey any orders from a stranger to return to her home, Mrs. Peabody said, "What's your name, child?"

"Alice Hanscombe. But aren't you coming into the lake with me...?"

Hanscombe. The renting agent had told Mrs. Peabody that her nearest neighbor's name was Hanscombe. "No, dear," Mrs. Peabody said as she began to hurry away. "Now you stay right there and I'll be right back."

As Mrs. Peabody rounded the edge of the cove and saw the Hanscombe house ahead, she thought she heard a splash coming from behind her...and that only made her quicken her steps into a run. When she burst into the kitchen of the house, she said breathlessly to the woman standing at the stove. "Mrs. Hanscombe...I'm your new neighbor...and I just saw your daughter Alice standing dripping wet at the edge of the lake! You...you'd better go out there and bring her back, before she..."

"Oh, again?" Mrs. Hanscombe gasped. "This is the...the third year she's come back...on the anniversary of the day she drowned in the lake!"

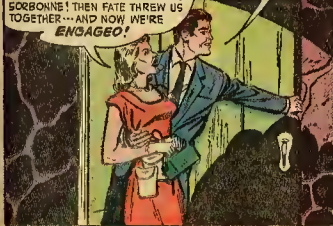
The VENGEFUL SPIRIT



WHAT CAUSES SPIRITS TO LEAVE THEIR PEACEFUL REALM OF ETERNAL REST...TO HAUNT THE WORLD OF THE LIVING? BY FAR THE MOST POWERFUL MOTIVE IS THAT OF...**REVENGE!** HERE, THEN, IS AN EERIE TALE OF JUST SUCH A **VENGEFUL SPIRIT**...A SPIRIT IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE...IN A GHOSTLY ADVENTURE **YOU'LL NEVER FORGET!**

ON A SMALL SIDE-STREET IN PARIS... AND THAT CALLS FOR A ROYAL CELEBRATION! **GARÇON...A BOTTLE OF CHAMPAGNE!**

JUST THINK, PETE, DARLING...THREE WEEKS AGO WE DIDN'T EVEN **KNOW** EACH OTHER...WE WERE JUST TWO OF THE HUNDREDS OF AMERICAN STUDENTS STUDYING HERE AT THE SORBONNE! THEN FATE THREW US TOGETHER...AND NOW WE'RE **ENGAGED!**



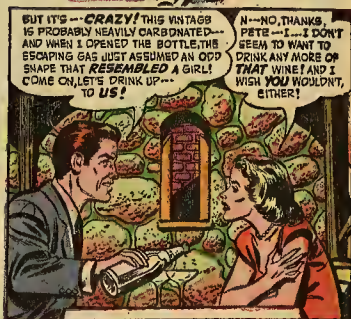
OH, THIS PLACE IS IDYLIC, PETE...WE'RE THE ONLY CUSTOMERS!

HERE YOU ARE, MONSIEUR--**CHATEAU MARIVEAUX 1941!** YOU ARE PROBABLY THE FIRST ONES TO DRINK CHAMPAGNE OF THIS VINTAGE, SINCÉ PIERRE MARIVEAUX ALWAYS AGES HIS CHAMPAGNES TEN YEARS BEFORE SHIPPING...AND I HAVE AN ARRANGEMENT WITH HIM TO RECEIVE THE VERY FIRST SHIPMENTS EACH YEAR! THIS JUST CAME IN AN HOUR AGO!





FROM THE BOTTLE---A WEIRD VISION!



ONCE AGAIN...THAT EERIE SPECTACLE...BUT THIS TIME...

GO...GO TO THE
CHATEAU MARIVEAUX
...THERE YOU WILL FIND
ME!



I...I SAW THAT...SHE
KISSED YOU! AND YOU
LOOKED AS IF YOU
LIKED IT!

THE...THE TOUCH OF HER
HANDS...HER LIPS...THAT
WAS REAL! I...I'VE
GOT TO DO AS SHE SAYS
...SEE IF I CAN FIND HER,
HELP HER!



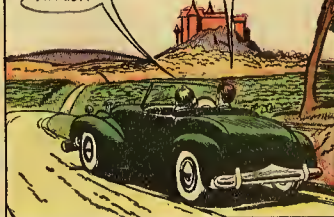
THE CHATEAU MARIVEAUX
AT EPERNAY...THAT'S
WHERE I'M GOING!

YOU MEAN THAT'S WHERE WE'RE
GOING! THAT GIRL WAS TOO
BEAUTIFUL, EVEN IF SHE IS
ONLY A BODILESS SPECTER!

NEXT DAY...

WE'VE PASSED NOTHING
BUT VINEYARDS FOR HOURS
...THIS IS THE HEART OF
THE GRAPE-GROWING
DISTRICT!

YES, AND ALL THESE LANDS
MUST BELONG TO THE
CHATEAU MARIVEAUX...
BECAUSE THERE'S THE
CHATEAU ITSELF UP
AHEAD!



I AM SORRY...
MY MASTER,
MONSIEUR
MARIVEAUX,
REFUSES TO SEE
VISITORS!

I'LL HAVE TO TRY A
SHOT IN THE DARK--!

TELL YOUR MASTER
WE'VE COME TO SEE
HIM ABOUT THE **SPRIT
OF THE 1941
VINTAGE!**

LET...
LET THEM
IN!

I AM **PIERRE MARIVEAUX!** COME INTO
MY LIBRARY AND TELL ME WHAT YOU
MEANT ABOUT THE **SPRIT OF THE
1941 VINTAGE!** DID...DID YOU SEE
HER TOO...DID SHE TELL YOU
ANYTHING?

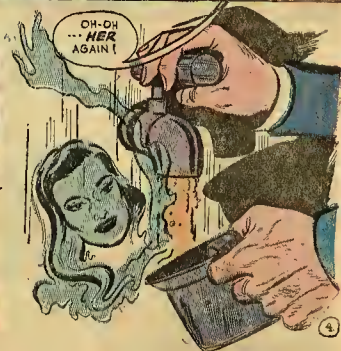
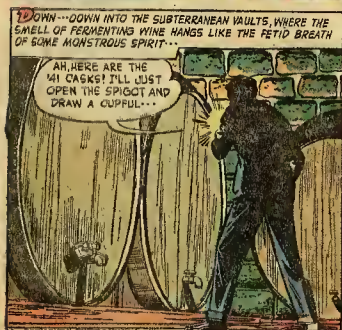
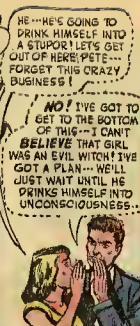
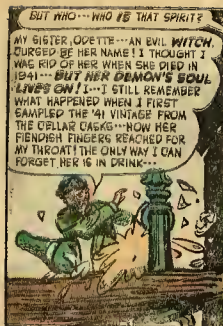
THEN YOU KNOW ABOUT
HER, EH? YES, I SAW HER
WHEN I DRANK FROM
A BOTTLE OF YOUR
'41 CHAMPAGNE...BUT
ALL SHE SAID WAS
THAT I'D
FIND
HER
HERE!



OUI, SHE IS HERE! HER SATANICAL SPIRIT IS
IMPRISONED IN EVERY BOTTLE OF THE '41
VINTAGE...AS WELL AS IN THE HUGE WINE
CASKS IN MY CELLAR VAULTS! I BEGAN
SENDING OUT THAT YEAR'S
VINTAGE BEFORE I KNEW OF
HER PRESENCE WITH IT--AND
NOW THAT CHAMPAGNE IS ON
ITS WAY ALL OVER THE WORLD!

I...I MUST EXERCISE
HER SPIRIT BE-
FORE SHE
DOES ANY
HARM!







TAKE--THAT AYE--
--BREAK OPEN
THE CAKE!

I--I CAN'T! IT'S
VALUABLE--AND
IT'S NOT MY
PROPERTY--



YES, BUT IT WOULD GIVE FREE
REIN FOR MY SPIRIT TO ESCAPE!
I HAVE NOT THE STRENGTH TO
BREAK LONG--HURRY!

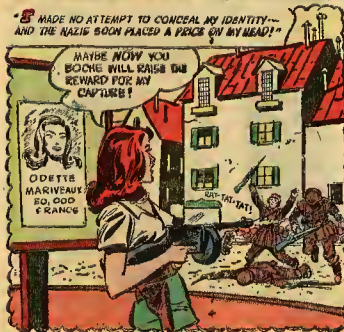
YOUR--YOUR
LIPS--I--I CAN'T
RESIST YOU!



THEN-- YOU--YOU'RE MUCH CLEARER
NOW--AND THAT GHOSTLY
LIGHT AROUND YOU IS
STRONGER!

YES--ALL THESE
CASES CONTAIN
MORE THAN ALCOHOLIC
SPIRITS--THEY CONTAIN
ALSO MY SPIRIT! AND
ENOUGH OF MY SPIRIT
ESSENCE IS ESCAPING FROM
THIS CASE NOW TO SUSTAIN
ME FOR A WHILE AND GIVE
ME THE STRENGTH TO
TELL YOU MY
STORY!

I AND MY BROTHER PIERRE WERE THE LAST OF THE
MARIVEAUX FAMILY--THE LAST ONES TO INHERIT THE
FABULOUS FAMILY VINEYARDS! BUT PIERRE WAS NEVER
A TRUE MARIVEAUX, OR A TRUE FRENCHMAN--FOR
WHEN THE NAZIS CONQUERED FRANCE IN 1940, HE
BECAME A COLLABORATOR IN ORDER TO RETAIN
HIS FORTUNE--WHILE I JOINED THE MAQUIS OF
THE FREE FRENCH UNDERGROUND!



"I MADE NO ATTEMPT TO CONCEAL MY IDENTITY--
AND THE NAZIS SOON PLACED A PRICE ON MY HEAD!"

MAYBE NOW YOU
BOOGE WILL RAISE THE
REWARD FOR MY
CAPTURE!

ODETTE
MARIVEAUX
20, 000
F. FRANCE



"BUT WHEN THE GESTAPO DRAGNET TIGHTENED AROUND MY
BAND OF MAQUIS, I TURNED IN DESPERATION TO PIERRE, FOOL-
ISHLY BELIEVING THAT HE WOULDN'T BETRAY HIS OWN SISTER!"

THE NAZIS TRUST YOU--
THEY WOULD NEVER THINK
OF SEARCHING YOUR WINE
CELLARS FOR MAQUIS!
IT WOULD MAKE A PER-
FECT HIDEOUT FOR
115--

NO! I AM IN TOO WELL
WITH THE NAZIS NOW--I
CANNOT AFFORD TO RISK MY
LIFE AND FORTUNE BY HELP-
ING YOU! BUT YOU CAN
HELP ME SOLIDIFY MY
POSITION WITH THE
NAZIS--



OH-H-H-H!

---WHEN THE NAZI LEARN THAT I
KILLED MY OWN SISTER FOR
THEM, THEN I WILL **REALLY**
BE IN WITH THEM!

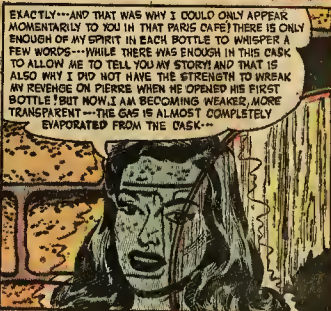
"THE NAZI PAID EVEN HIGHER PRICES FOR PIERRE'S WINES AND
CHAMPAGNES AFTER HE HAD THUS PROVEN HIS LOYALTY TO THEM
---AND PIERRE GREEDILY PLANTED EVERY SQUARE FOOT OF HIS
LAND WITH GRAPE VINES, EAGER FOR THE MONEY THAT EACH
ADDITIONAL BOTTLE WOULD BRING HIM! BUT HE MADE HIS
FATAL MISTAKE WHEN HE PLANTED VINES ON MY GRAVE!"



HA--- YOU SERVE MY PURPOSE EVEN
AFTER YOUR DEATH, MY SISTER! THE
WINE THAT I WILL EXTRACT FROM THIS
1941 CROP WILL CONTAIN YOUR VERY
HEART'S BLOOD!

BUT THE VINES CONTAINED
MORE... THEY ALSO IMPRISONED
MY **SPRIT**! AND SINCE CHAMPAGNE
IS ALWAYS A **BLENDED** MIXTURE,
MY SPRIT WAS DIFFUSED THROUGH-
OUT THE ENTIRE 1941 VINTAGE---
AND EXISTED IN EACH CASK, IN
EVERY BOTTLE! BUT I CAN APPEAR
ONLY WHEN THE CARBONIC GAS
ESCAPES, FOR I USE THE GAS TO
FORM MY SPECTRAL SHAPE---

I GET IT NOW--- THE
MORE GAS THAT
ESCAPES, THE CLEARER
AND STRONGER YOUR
SPRIT IS!



EXACTLY---AND THAT WAS WHY I COULD ONLY APPEAR
MOMENTARILY TO YOU IN THAT PARIS CAFE! THERE IS ONLY
ENOUGH OF MY SPRIT IN EACH BOTTLE TO WHISPER A
FEW WORDS---WHILE THERE WAS ENOUGH IN THIS CASK
TO ALLOW ME TO TELL YOU MY STORY! AND THAT IS
ALSO WHY I DID NOT HAVE THE STRENGTH TO WREAK
MY REVENGE ON PIERRE WHEN HE OPENED HIS FIRST
BOTTLE! BUT NOW I AM BECOMING WEAKER, MORE
TRANSPARENT---THE GAS IS ALMOST COMPLETELY
EVAPORATED FROM THE CASK---

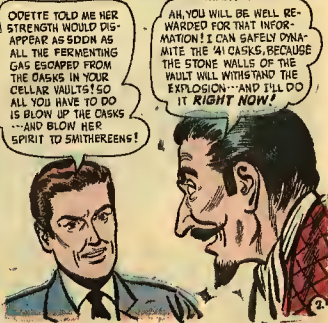
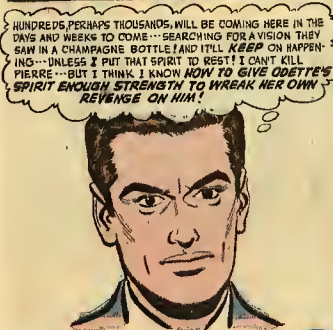
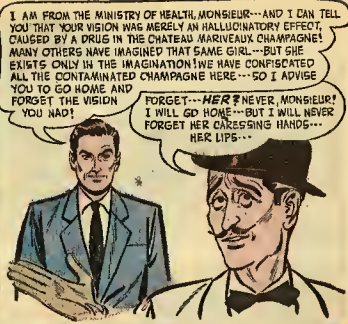
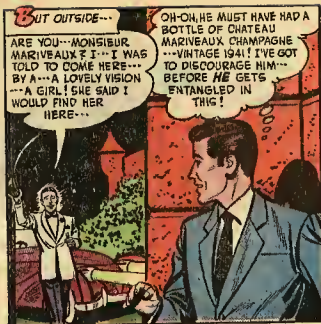


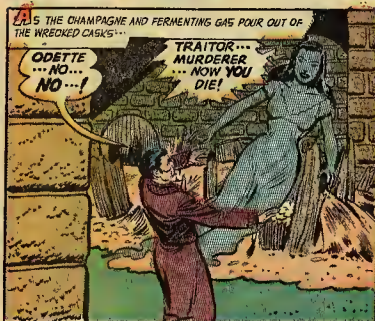
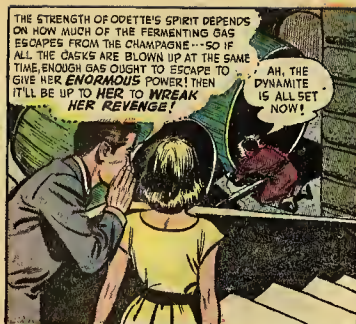
IT---IT IS UP TO **YOU**... TO AVENGE MY
MURDER! YOU HAVE THE STRENGTH---
TO **KILL** MY BROTHER! AVENGE ME---
AND ALLOW ME TO RETURN TO
ETERNAL REST! REMEMBER---



---KILL MY
BROTHER---
KILL MY
BROT---

SHE---SHE'S EVAPORATED---VANISHED!
BUT I---I CAN'T DO WHAT SHE ASKED
---I CAN'T COMMIT **MURDER**! I'D
BETTER GET OUT OF HERE, OUT INTO
THE FRESH AIR---WHERE I CAN THINK
THIS OUT!





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From **YOUR EDITOR-** to **YOU!**

THREE RAPS OF a ghostly gavel---and the meeting is called to order! Greetings, all you wonderful people who are doing so much to make "Forbidden Worlds" a shout! You've given us your wholehearted support, greeting our new magazine with an enthusiasm which is fast making publishing history. All of the loyal fans of our companion publication, "Adventures Into The Unknown", have leaped onto the bandwagon of our new book---and we've added hosts of new readers. All of which guarantees the fact that "Forbidden Worlds" will continue to thrill and entertain its vast and growing public for many years to come!

It's no simple job to thrill and entertain readers who know and demand the best. It calls for constant research on the parts of experienced delvers into the occult---for searching out the strange, eerie and little-known facts that lie hidden deep within the menacing realm of the supernatural. It calls for the skillful efforts of able and imaginative writers geared to turn out the type of story material calculated to leave you breathless and gasping. And it demands the talent of ace artists who can

translate weird story material into spine-tlingling life. All of this we are bringing you---and shall continue to do so. You'll see the gripping results in this current issue. For we've assembled a galaxy of fast-paced yarns which should be right up the alley of you experienced fans! There's "Lair of the Vampire", presenting a weird menace from out of the Unknown. There's "The Vengeful Spirit", one of the most imaginative and novel ghost stories you've ever read. And "Domain of the Doomed", a gasp-laden adventure into truly forbidden worlds! "Skull of the Sorcerer" is a Halloween story which should make you bar the door comes All Hallow's Eve---and "The Witch's Apprentice" packs an out-of-this-world punch you'll long remember!

Please---write us about how you like this issue. Tell us which stories you like, and why! And tell us what you'd like to see in future issues, because this is your magazine! Address your letters to The Editor, Forbidden Worlds, 45 West 45th Street, New York 19, N. Y. And in case you'd like to know what other readers think, here goes!

"Dear Editor:-

I have just read your newest book, 'Forbidden Worlds'. I find this magazine most interesting and exciting, and hope that I will see many more copies of it. I liked all the stories in it, especially that titled 'The Way of The Werewolf'. I hope you continue this book and keep up the exciting stories that you put into this last issue. I have also read 'Adventures Into The Unknown', and find it completely thrilling and absorbing. Keep up your swell work on both of them!

June Mueller, Cleveland, O."

"Dear Editor:-

My favorite comic up to now has been 'Adventures Into The Unknown', but at last I've found one which I like equally---'Forbidden Worlds'! Yes, I think that 'Forbidden Worlds' has done a great job in living up to your earlier magazine in every respect---even though I would have thought it impossible! I especially liked the stories, 'Demon of Destruction' and 'The Monster Doll'. I'd like to see you try some good robot stories---also zombies.

"Dear Editor:-

--Michael R. Elliott, Portland, Ore."

I have just finished reading your new book called 'Forbidden Worlds', and I think it is the best book I have ever read. I can also say the same thing about your 'Adventures Into The Unknown'---so take your pick! I am crippled with arthritis and cannot walk, and wonderful books like these help me to pass my time thrillingly. The stories I like best are about vampires and werewolves---but any stories of the Unknown and supernatural send me. Keep up the good work---and keep these books rolling!

--Frances E. LeJeune, Fremont, O."

The DOMAIN of the DOOMED



MANKIND HAS ALWAYS CONSIDERED THE REMOTE REACHES OF THE UNIVERSE AS A LAST OUTPOST OF MYSTERY...LITTLE REALIZING THAT IT HARBORS AN EVIL FAR MORE GRISLY THAN ANY EARTHBOUND MENACE! ONLY ONE THING CAN ACTIVATE THE MONSTROUS CREATURES WHO SYMBOLIZE THIS EVIL...AND IT HAPPENS WHEN ATOMIC SCIENCE REACHES **THE DOMAIN OF THE DOOMED!**

I'VE GOT ONE VISITOR, CORPORAL! SHE'S BEEN CLEARED WITH HEAD-QUARTERS!

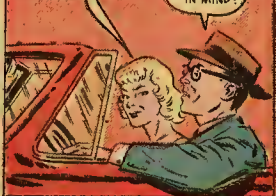
OK, DR. NORTON! GUESS ANYONE **YOU** BRING IS A GOOD SECURITY RISK!

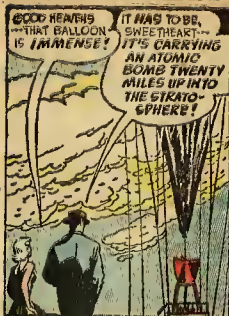
**U.S. ARMY
ATOMIC
BOMB
PROJECT**



I'M AWFULLY PROUD THAT YOUR RECORD AS A PHYSICIST MADE THE ARMY CHOOSE YOU TO HEAD THIS STRATOSPHERE EXPERIMENT, BRUCE...BUT I'VE **STILL** GOT ONLY A VAGUE IDEA OF WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT!

THAT'LL CHANGE IN JUST A MINUTE, BETTY... BECAUSE YOU'RE GOING TO **SEE** EXACTLY WHAT WE'VE GOT IN MIND!





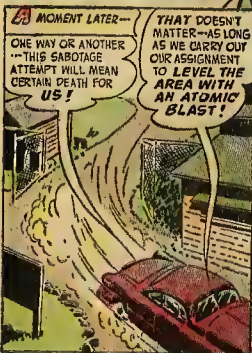
GOOD HEAVENS
---THAT BALLOON
IS IMMENSE!

IT HAS TO BE,
SWEETHEART---
IT'S CARRYING
AN ATOMIC
BOMB TWENTY
MILES UP INTO
THE STRATO-
SPHERE!

THE BOMB IS SET TO EXPLODE
TWO HOURS AFTER THE BALLOON
IS RELEASED---AND THE STAFF
OF ARMY TECHNICIANS I SUPER-
VISE WILL THEN MEASURE HOW
MUCH RADIOACTIVITY PENE-
TRATES THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE!
THAT WILL BE IMPORTANT IF
ROCKET-POWERED ATOMIC
BOMBS ARE USED IN A
FUTURE
WAR!

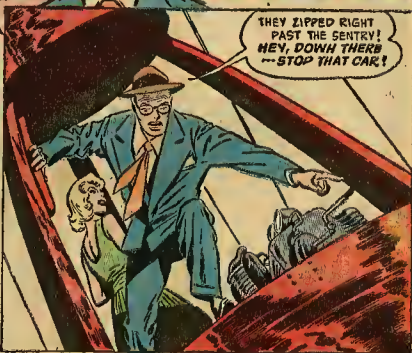
JEEPERS,BRUCE
---I'M NOT SURE
I WANT TO GET
TOO CLOSE TO
AN A-BOMB---
EVEN AROUND
YOU!

THERE'S NOTHING TO
BE AFRAID OF COME
ON---I WANT TO
EXPLAIN A FEW OF
THE INSTRUMENTS
WE'VE INSTALLED IN
THE TOP OF THIS
CLAUDE!



A MOMENT LATER---
ONE WAY OR ANOTHER
---THIS SABOTAGE
ATTEMPT WILL MEAN
CERTAIN DEATH FOR
US!

THAT DOESN'T
MATTER---AS LONG
AS WE CARRY OUT
OUR ASSIGNMENT
TO LEVEL THE
AREA WITH
AN ATOMIC
BLAST!



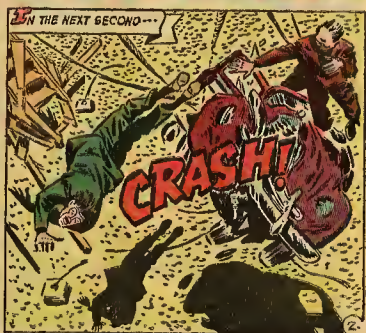
THEY ZIPPED RIGHT
PAST THE SENTRY!
HEY, DOWN THERE
---STOP THAT CAR!



TECHNICAL STA

RAT TAT TAT!

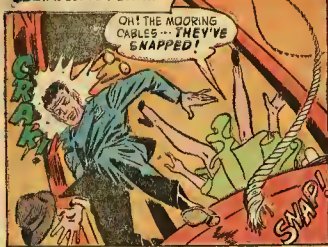
SCREEECH!



IN THE NEXT SECOND---

CRASH!

WITH A SUDDEN LURCH---



DR. NORTON AND HIS FIANCEE ARE UP THERE IN THE INSTRUMENT COMPARTMENT! WE'VE GOT TO BRING THEM DOWN... EVEN IF IT MEANS FIRING AT THE BALLOON!

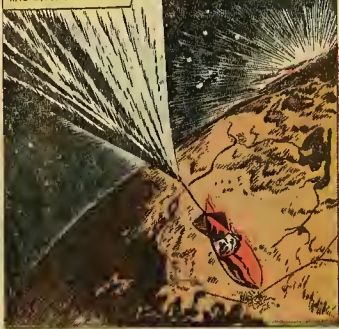
IMPOSSIBLE---THE IMPACT WOULD BE SURE TO EXPLODE THE BOMB! NORTON AND THE GIRL WOULD DIE ANYWAY---AND SO WOULD EVERYONE WITHIN FIVE MILES OF THE BLAST!



MINUTES LATER...AS THE HUGE SPHERE SOARS THROUGH THE JOY LEVEL OF THE UPPER CLOUDS---



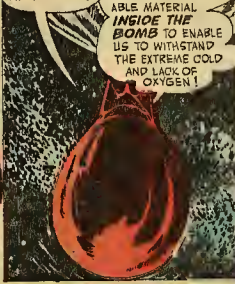
MILE AFTER MILE, THE BALLOON RISES THROUGH THE LIFELESS REACHES OF THE STRATOSPHERE---CARRYING TWO MOTIONLESS FIGURES INTO THE VOID NO HUMAN HAS EVER ENTERED!



Then...WITH THE EARTH OUT OF SIGHT IN THE BLACK CHASM THAT REELS BELOW---



I NEVER DARED HOPE WE WOULD BE, BRUCE! HOW DID IT HAPPEN?



MY GUESS IS THAT WE'VE ABSORBED ENOUGH ATOMIC RAYS FROM THE FISSION-ABLE MATERIAL INSIDE THE BOMB TO ENABLE US TO WITHSTAND THE EXTREME COLD AND LACK OF OXYGEN!

LOOK... ARE THOSE CLOUDS?



THERE AREN'T ANY CLOUDS IN THE STRATOSPHERE... BUT **WHATEVER** THEY ARE...THEY'RE CHANGING SHAPE!

THEN---IN AN ENGULFING WAVE OF HORROR---



BRUCE...
THEY'RE
CLOSING
IN!

DEEP IN THE MUFFLED DARKNESS---

THE BALLOON'S MOVING
IN A NEW DIRECTION.
BRUCE---WE'RE BEING
TAKEN SOMEWHERE!

YOU'RE RIGHT!
WE'RE ENTERING A
DEFINITE ATMOSPHERE
---AND IT'S
CHARGED WITH
EVIL!



MINUTES LATER---A LURID FLASH
BREAKS AROUND THE BALLOON---
COUPLED WITH A DIZZY PLUNGE
THROUGH SPACE!



AS THE BALLOON AND ITS DEADLY
BURDEN SETTLE ON A WEIRD SUBWORLD---

I CAN'T GUESS WHERE
WE ARE, BETTY---BUT IT
MUST BE ONE OF THE
SMALL, NAMELESS PLANETS
THAT SOMETIMES ENTER
THE SOLAR SYSTEM FROM
THE OUTER LIMITS
OF SPACE!

BRUCE!
GOOD
HEAVENS
---WHAT
ARE
THEY?



HUMANS!

THE DARK
POWERS ABOVE
HAVE SENT THEM
HERE---TO
US!



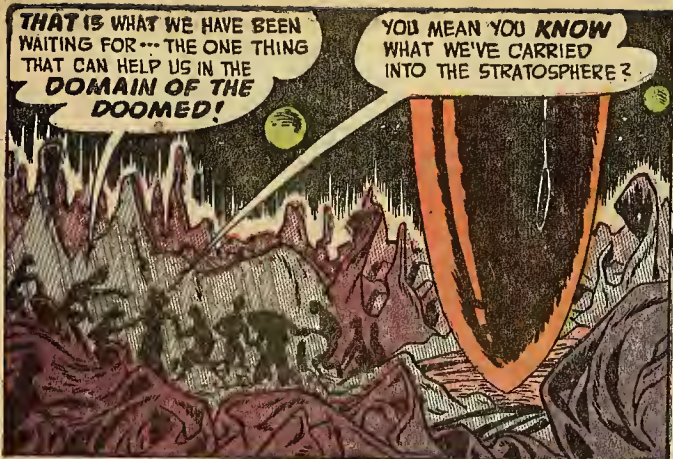
BETTY---HIDE! THE
ROCKS ARE CRAWLING
WITH THESE THINGS!



IN A SCUTTLING RUSH---

HAA NA! WHO CAN
HIDE---HERE?





THAT IS WHAT WE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR---THE ONE THING THAT CAN HELP US IN THE DOMAIN OF THE DOOMED!

YOU MEAN YOU KNOW WHAT WE'VE CARRIED INTO THE STRATOSPHERE?



WE WERE ONCE HUMAN---WE WERE THE EVIL-DOERS WHO PLAGUED OUR FELLOW MEN---UNTIL DEATH SENT US INTO AN EXILED AFTER-LIFE **HERE!** WE HAVE BEEN BANNED FROM THE EARTH, BUT NEWCOMERS TO THE DOMAIN OF THE DOOMED BRING US NEWS OF IMPORTANT EVENTS THERE---**LIKE THE ATOMIC BOMB!**



AN ATOMIC EXPLOSION WILL HAVE ONLY ONE EFFECT ON THE DOMAIN OF THE DOOMED---IT WILL EXERT A **CREATIVE FORCE** THAT CAN CHANGE US INTO **MORTAL BEINGS!** WE'LL KEEP OUR HIDEOUS SHAPES, BUT OUR RETURN TO LIFE WILL MEAN WE CAN **ESCAPE** FROM THE DOMAIN OF THE DOOMED---**AND MAKE OUR WAY BACK TO THE EARTH!**

WE'VE HAD NO CHANCE TO WREAK TERROR AND DESTRUCTION **HERE...** BUT ONCE WE REACH THE WORLD OF THE LIVING, **WE'LL BE ABLE TO FULFILL OUR EVIL DESTINIES WITHOUT LIMIT!**

GOOD LORD, BRUCE! WHATEVER **ELSE** HAPPENS---WE CAN'T LET THESE THINGS CARRY OUT AN INVASION OF HORROR!



HA HA HA! SHE THINKS WE CAN BE STOPPED---**BY HUMANS!**

AS IF WE DIDN'T KNOW HOW HELPLESS THEY ARE---**AND THAT THE BOMB WILL EXPLODE WITHIN A FEW MINUTES!**



UNEXPECTEDLY---

PLENTY CAN HAPPEN WITHIN A FEW MINUTES, CREEPS!



GET TO THE BALLOON, BETTY... FAST!

THEY'RE RIGHT BEHIND US, BRUCE...
BUT WE'RE CERTAINLY NOT GOING
TO BE CAKE AROUND THE
BOMB!

I CAN'T PREVENT IT FROM EX-
PLODING, AND RESTORING THOSE
FIENDS TO LIFE... BUT I'M GO-
ING TO MAKE SURE WE AREN'T
CAUGHT IN THE BLAST! HURRY!
...CLIMB UP ON THAT CABLE!

THEN...

GOOD THING THE
CONTROLS ARE WORK-
ING! THE BALLOON'S
UNCOUPLED FROM
THE BOMB... IT'S
STARTING
TO RISE!

IN THE NEXT SECOND...

BRUCE! FOR HEAVEN'S
SAKE... DON'T LET
THEM GET YOU!

THE BALLOON'S
MOUNTING FAST...
THIS IS MY LAST
CHANCE!

POW!

WITH A DESPERATE LEAP...

THE CABLE!
GRAB IT...
THEY'RE
ESCAPING!

A THOUSAND FEET ABOVE THE
DOMAIN OF THE DOOMED...

BRUCE IS JUST
MANAGING TO HOLD
ON! AND IF HE
LOSES HIS GRIP...
HE'LL BE DIS-
INTEGRATED BY
THE BOMB
BLAST AFTER
HE HITS!



I MAY BE FITTED AGAINST SOMETHING STRONGER THAN BLOOD AND MUSCLE... BUT I'M NOT BEATEN YET!

JUST WAIT! IN A MATTER OF SECONDS... WE'LL HAVE YOU BOTH!



I'LL CLIMB THE CABLE AND RELEASE ENOUGH HYDROGEN TO BRING THE BALLOON BACK TO THE DOMAIN OF THE DEAD... AND EVEN IF SHE ESCAPES THE EXPLOSION, WE'LL CAPTURE HER RIGHT AFTER WE'VE GAINED A NEW HOLD ON LIFE!



CRACK!

AAARGH!



A SECOND LATER...



AS THE TOWERING ATOMIC CLOUD CLIMBS...

SEE THEM? THE EXPLOSION DID JUST WHAT THE FIENDS EXPECTED... THEY'RE NOW MORTAL CREATURES--ABLE TO RETURN TO EARTH!

WAIT, BRUCE-- CAN YOU MAKE OUT THAT WEIRD JUMBLE OF ROCKS THROWN UP BY THE BLAST?



IT'S NOT ONLY THAT THEY LOOK STRANGE-- THEY'RE ACTUALLY MOVING!

YE GODS-- REMEMBER WHAT THE FIENDS SAID ABOUT THE CREATIVE FORCE OF THE ATOMIC BLAST? THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT WE CAN EXPECT FROM THIS NEW BATCH OF MONSTERS... BUT I'M GOING TO LET OUT ENOUGH HYDROGEN TO BRING US DOWN FOR A CLOSER LOOK!

BLACK AND BRUTISH...AS PRIMITIVE AS THE ROCK FROM WHICH THEY WERE FORMED...

WELCOME! WE HAVE BOTH GAINED LIFE IN THE SAME SINGLE SECOND!

THAT MAKES US ALLIES...UNITED IN A COMMON CAUSE FOR EVIL!

EVIL! FOR A MOMENT, IT SEEMS AS IF THE WORD HAS NO MEANING TO THESE MUTE AND GROPING MINDS...

AND THEN...UNEXPECTEDLY...

WITH A FURIOUS BATTLE RAGING BELOW...

I HATE TO SAY THIS, BRUCE...BUT THE MONSTERS SEEM TO BE GETTING THE UPPER HAND!

YOU'RE RIGHT! THE ATOMIC CREATURES NEED HELP, AND THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY THEY CAN GET IT...THE BALLOON!

BUT HEAVENS, BRUCE...YOU CAN'T! THE BALLOON IS SOMETHING WE NEED...IF WE'RE EVER GOING TO GET BACK TO EARTH AGAIN!

IT'S A TOUGH THING TO ASK, MONEY...BUT WE'VE GOT TO MAKE A CHOICE! MAYBE WE WON'T REACH THE EARTH...BUT NEITHER WILL THOSE FIENDS...AND THAT'S THE IMPORTANT THING!

O.K., BETTY...HOLD ON TIGHT...AND BRACE YOURSELF FOR A JOLT!

AS THE FLAMES MOUNT IN A SEETHING FLASH...



BRUCE...ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

NEVER MIND ME! THE ATOMIC CREATURES WON'T BE HARMED BY WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN... BUT NOW THAT THE FIENDS ARE **LIVING** --- THEY'RE WITHIN A SPLIT SECOND OF EXTERMINATION!

Then...in a spouting, white-hot inferno...



BRUCE...IT WAS HORRIBLE! THOSE JETS OF FLAMING GAS WERE LIKE A VOLCANIC ERUPTION!

IT'S THE ONLY THING THAT COULD WORK, HONEY! ASIDE FROM A HAZE OF SMOKE AND A FEW CRINKLED ASHES... **THE FIENDS ARE FINISHED!**



BUT WHAT ABOUT THEM? THEY'RE **HIDEOUS...WORSE THAN THE FIENDS!**



MAYBE...BUT DON'T JUDGE THEM BY APPEARANCES! THEY MAY NOT HAVE MINDS OR SOULS, BUT THEY SPRANG FROM THE BASIC MATTER OF THE UNIVERSE... **THE VERY SOURCE OF LIFE!** THAT MEANS THEY'RE **GOOD**... AND IF I CAN GET THEM TO UNDERSTAND ME... **I'M SURE THEY'LL HELP US!**



SLOWLY, WITH REPEATED GESTURES, BRUCE SPEAKS TO THE WEIRD CREATURES...AND BIT BY BIT...A DIM IDEA FORMS IN THEIR GROPING CONSCIOUSNESS!



THEY'RE GROUPING TOGETHER, BRUCE! THEY SEEM TO HAVE UNDERSTOOD YOU... BUT **CAN** THEY HELP?



DON'T **YOU** FEEL SOME KIND OF STRANGE FORCE AROUND US? YOU'D BETTER BRACE YOURSELF... **IT'S GROWING STRONGER EVERY SECOND!**

Then...with a blinding glare breaking above the atomic creatures...



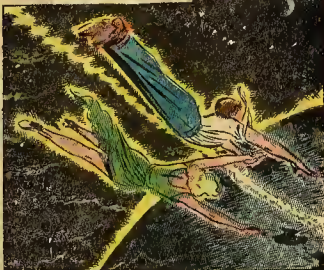
OHH!

BRUCE...WHAT'S HAPPENING?



WE'RE BEING PROJECTED ALONG A MOLECULAR BEAM GIVEN OFF BY THE ATOMIC CREATURES...AND **IT'S STRONG ENOUGH TO CARRY US THROUGH SPACE TO THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE!**

EARTHWARD...AT A SPEED THAT BRIDGES THE BLACK GULF OF THE UNIVERSE!

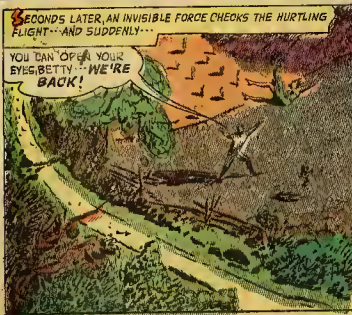


DO YOU THINK WE'LL **EVER** BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN WHAT WE'VE BEEN THROUGH, BRUCE?

I'M NOT EVEN GOING TO **TRY**, HONEY! WE CAN ALWAYS PRETEND THERE WERE A COUPLE OF PARACHUTES IN THE INSTRUMENT COMPARTMENT... BECAUSE **THAT** WILL BE A LOT EASIER TO BELIEVE THAN THE **DOMAIN OF THE DOOMED!**

SECONDS LATER, AN INVISIBLE FORCE CHECKS THE HURLING FLIGHT...AND SUDDENLY...

YOU CAN OPEN YOUR EYES, BETTY...WE'RE **BACK!**



THE END!

GIANTS ^{ON THE} EARTH

NOT ALL THE FORBIDDEN WORLDS ARE ON OTHER PLANETS OR IN THE REALMS OF THE SUPERNATURAL...FOR SOME ARE RIGHT HERE ON THE EARTH! ONE SUCH PLACE IS A MYSTERIOUS WORLD ALL TO ITSELF... THE FORBIDDEN LAND OF TIBET--WHERE GIANT SNOWMEN STALK THE UNWARY TRAVELER!



FOR MANY YEARS, ARCHAEOLOGISTS AND EXPLORERS WHO HAVE PENETRATED INTO THE INTERIOR OF TIBET HAVE BEEN BRINGING BACK STRANGE TALES OF THE "ABOMINABLE SNOWMEN"--GIANTIC, SILVERY-FURRED APEMEN WHO FEED UPON YAKS AND HUMANS ALIKE!

MIRKA!
BAD
MANSHI!

HMM--MIRKA MEANS THAT GIANT BIPOD THE NATIVES ARE SO TERRIFIED ABOUT! IT SEEMS AS IF ALMOST EVERY TIBETAN MONASTERY IN THE HIMALAYAS HAS A LURID DRAWING OR CARVING OF ONE OF THOSE BEASTS!

BUT THERE HAVE BEEN MORE THAN MERE LEGENDS ABOUT THE GIANTIC SNOWMEN--FOR NATIVES HAVE LED EXPLORERS TO MONSTROUS HUMAN TRACKS ON MANY OCCASIONS! THE FIRST AUTHENTIC REPORT OF SUCH FOOTPRINTS CAME FROM THE JALPAIGURI DISTRICT IN 1928...

MI-60--
MIRKA!

GREAT SCOTT--THE LEGENDS ABOUT THE GIANTIC SNOWMEN ARE TRUE!



THROUGH THE YEARS, OTHER TRACKS WERE FOUND AS FAR SOUTH AS BELAKOBA IN THE PROVINCE OF BENGAAL--AND SOME WERE MEASURED BY A BRITISH REPORTER FROM REUTER'S NEWS AGENCY ON JUNE 20, 1938, NEAR JALPAIGURI...

BY GEORGE--THESE PRINTS ARE 24 INCHES LONG AND 11 INCHES WIDE! THE MONSTER THAT LEFT THEM MUST HAVE BEEN AT LEAST 18 FEET TALL!



PERHAPS THE MOST ENORMOUS FOOTPRINTS OF ALL WERE THOSE FOUND BY WING COMMANDER E.B. BEAUMAN AND ERIC SHIPTON, THE EVEREST CLIMBER, IN THE GARHWAL AND KUMAON DISTRICTS! NO TAPE MEASURES WERE AVAILABLE AT THAT TIME--BUT SOME OF THE PRINTS WERE FOUR TIMES LARGER THAN THOSE OF THE EXPLORERS!

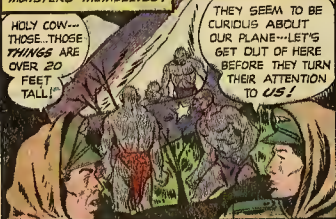
IF THEIR FEET ARE FOUR TIMES LARGER THAN OURS, THEN THOSE MONSTERS MUST BE FOUR TIMES TALLER THAN US... OR OVER 24 FEET TALL!



AMONG OTHERS WHO SAW THE GIGANTIC TRACKS WERE FRANK S. SMYTHE, THE ENGLISH EXPLORER AND MOUNTAINEER, AND H. W. TILMAN, LEADER OF THE 1939 MT. EVEREST EXPEDITION! BUT DURING THE LAST WAR, A GROUP OF U.S. Fliers FORCED DOWN ON THE FAMOUS "HUMP" ROUTE OVER THE HIMALAYAS ACTUALLY SAW THE INCREDIBLE MONSTERS THEMSELVES!

HOLY COW—THOSE...THOSE THINGS ARE OVER 20 FEET TALL!

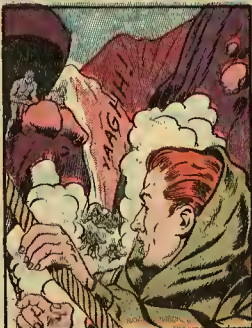
THEY SEEM TO BE CURIOUS ABOUT OUR PLANE—LET'S GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE THEY TURN THEIR ATTENTION TO US!



ACCORDING TO THE TIBETAN LEGENDS, THE GIANT SNOWMEN SOMETIMES WANDER AWAY FROM THEIR MOUNTAIN FASTNESSES AND DESCEND INTO THE SURROUNDING AREAS—AND SURE ENOUGH, THE REVEREND NAROLD YOUNG, A MISSIONARY, REPORTED THAT HE HAD ENCOUNTERED GIGANTIC, SILVER-HAIRED APE-MEN IN THE YUNNAN JUNGLES OF CHINA IN 1934!



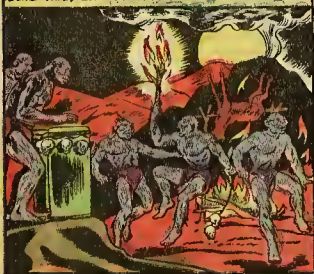
BUT OTHERS WHO CAME INTO CONTACT WITH THE GIANTS DIDN'T GET OFF SO EASILY! THE SURVIVOR OF A POLISH EXPEDITION THAT HAD SET OUT TO INVESTIGATE THE GIGANTIC TRACKS SAID HIS PARTY HAD REACHED A HEIGHT OF 20,500 FEET ON THE SLOPE OF NANGA DEVI WHEN HE SAW SOME OF THE GIANTS HURL AN AVALANCHE DOWN AT THOSE WHO HAD LAGGED BEHIND!



OTHER PILGRIMS FROM THE HIMALAYAS HAVE TOLD OF DIRECT ATTACKS BY THE GIANT SNOWMEN UPON THEIR CARAVANS!

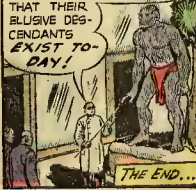


ACCORDING TO JEAN MARQUES-RIVIERA, THE FRENCH EXPLORER, THE GIGANTIC CREATURES HAVE BEEN SEEN BEATING DRUMS AND ENGAGING IN SOME WILD, UNHOLY RITE!



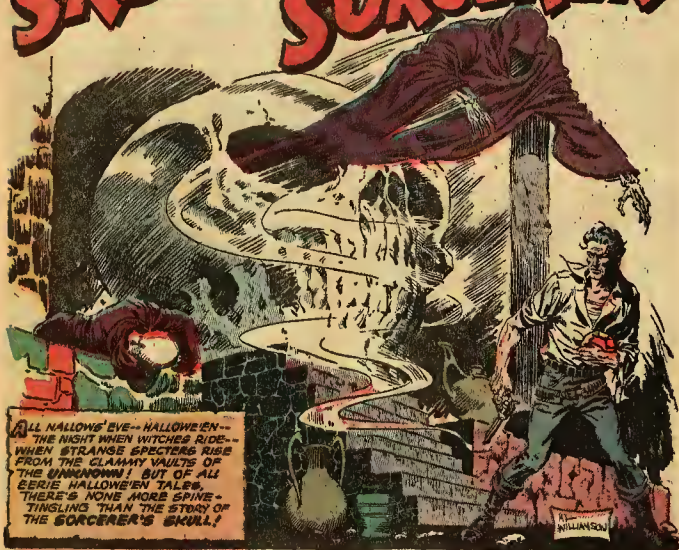
HOW CAN WE EXPLAIN THE EXISTENCE OF SUCH MONSTROUS CREATURES? WELL, ACCORDING TO PALEONTOLOGISTS WHO HAVE UNEARTHED THE BONES OF GIGANTOPITHECUS, THE CHINA GIANT THAT LIVED IN EASTERN ASIA ABOUT HALF A MILLION YEARS AGO, SUCH CREATURES MAY HAVE SURVIVED TO THE PRESENT DAY IN THE INACCESSIBLE FASTNESSES OF TIBET, THE FORBIDDEN LAND:

PALEONTOLOGICAL EVIDENCE INDICATES THAT GIANTS ROAMED THE EARTH UNTOLD AEONS AGO, AND THAT MAN BECAME SMALLER AS HE EVOLVED! THAT WOULD ACCOUNT FOR THE WORLD-WIDE LEGENDS OF ANCIENT GIANTS—AND FOR THE POSSIBILITY THAT THEIR ELUSIVE DESCENDANTS EXIST TO-DAY!



THE END...

SKULL ^{of the} SORCERER



ALL HALLOWS' EVE--HALLOWE'EN--
THE NIGHT WHEN WITCHES RIDE--
WHEN STRANGE SPECTERS RISE
FROM THE CLAMMY VAULTS OF
THE UNKNOWN! BUT OF ALL
EERIE HALLOWE'EN TALES,
THERE'S NONE MORE SPINE-
TINGLING THAN THE STORY OF
THE SORCERER'S SKULL!

SHUCKS, THIS
AIN'T MUCH OF
A HALLOWE'EN
BONFIRE--
THERE'S NOTHIN'
SPOOKY
ABOUT
IT!

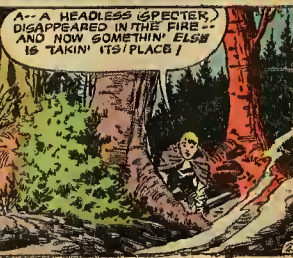
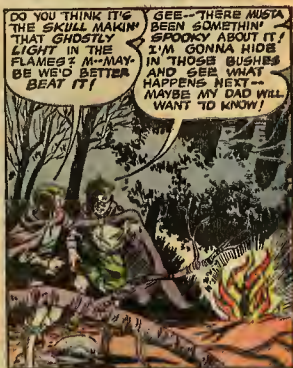
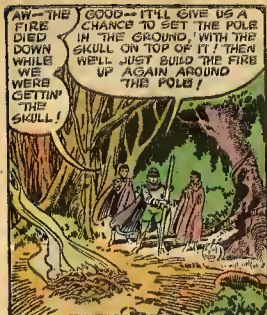
WAIT-- I KNOW
JUST THE THING
TO MAKE IT REAL-
LY SPOOKY--THE
SKULL IN MY DAD'S
STUDY! COME ON!

GOSH,
DAVEY--
WILL
YOUR
FATHER
LET US
BORROW
IT?

HE WON'T EVEN
KNOW I TOOK IT!
HE AND MY MOM
WENT TO A
COSTUME BALL
TONIGHT! SIN--
LET'S GO IN THE
SIDE WAY, SO
THE BUTLER
WON'T SEE US!

DAD ALWAYS GAVE STRICT OR-
DERS THAT THE SKULL WAS
NEVER TO BE TOUCHED-- BUT
WE'RE NOT GONNA HURT THE
OLD THING! WE'LL JUST PUT IT
ON TOP OF THE POLE IN THE
MIDDLE OF THE BONFIRE--
AND THEN DANCE AROUND IT,
PRETENDIN' WE'RE WITCH-
DOCTORS! WE'LL BRING IT
BACK BEFORE DAD EVEN
COMES BACK FROM
HIS PARTY!





A FEW MILES AWAY, AT A FASHIONABLE HALLOWEEN MASQUERADE BALL--

ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME YOU DANCED WITH ME? AFTER ALL, WE OUGHT TO KEEP ON PRETENDING WE'RE A HAPPY COUPLE--

JUST FOR APPEARANCE'S SAKE!

I SEE--YOU DON'T WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW I MARRIED YOU FOR YOUR MONEY-- IS THAT IT, ROBERT?



EXACTLY! BUT I'VE FIXED YOU-- I'VE CHANGED MY WILL TO LEAVE ALL MY MONEY TO DAVEY!

THAT DOESN'T BOTHER ME ONE BIT-- YOU'RE HEALTHY ENOUGH TO LIVE ANOTHER FIFTY YEARS! BUT NOW EXCUSE ME-- THERE'S SOMEONE NEW OVER THERE I HAVEN'T DANCED WITH YET!



MY, WHAT AN UNUSUAL COSTUME! AND THAT HOOD MAKES A WONDERFULLY EFFECTIVE MASK! I'D LIKE TO BE THE FIRST TO DANCE WITH THE MYSTERY MAN WHO'S SURE TO WIN THE PRIZE FOR THE BEST COSTUME-- LET'S HAVE YOUR HAND!

THAT-- THAT COSTUME-- THE SACRED ROBES OF THE DALAI RAMA!



OHNNNN!



WHAT DID HE DO TO MAKE HER PAINT-- AND WHO IN BLAZES IS HE?

THERE-- THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT! IT'S NOT MID-NIGHT YET, BUT LET'S ALL UNMASK NOW!



ALL RIGHT, WHOEVER YOU ARE... OR WHATEVER YOU ARE! IF YOU BELONG TO THIS PARTY, YOU'LL DROP YOUR HOOD-- NOW!





OH, NO!

THOSE ELONGATED EYEHOLE-- IT'S THE SKULL OF AN ORIENTAL! BUT IT... IT MUST BE JUST A HALUCINATION-- IT CAN'T BE THE SPIRIT OF THE DALAI RAMA! I'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO MY STUDY-- MAKE SURE THE SKULL IS STILL THERE-- INTACT!



THE SKULL-- IT'S GONE!

IT'S ALL MY FAULT, DAD-- I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE SKULL!

-- AND AFTER THE SKULL FELL INTO THE BON-FIRE, I SAW A--

ALL RIGHT, DAVEY-- I CAN IMAGINE WHAT HAPPENED NEXT! GO ON TO BED NOW AND TRY TO FORGET IT ALL! NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS TO ME, AT LEAST I KNOW THAT YOU'RE WELL TAKEN CARE OF!



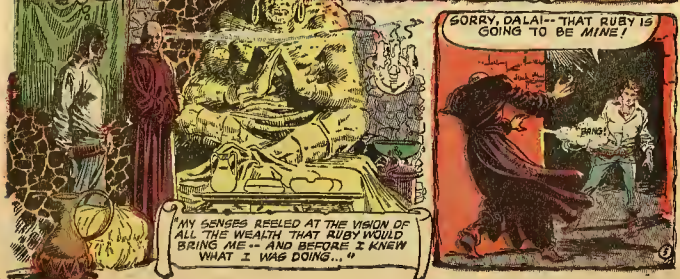
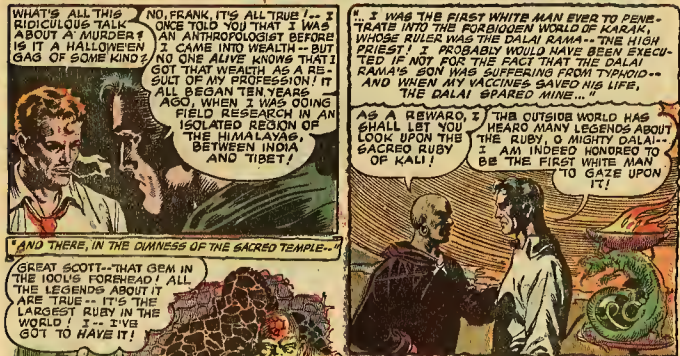
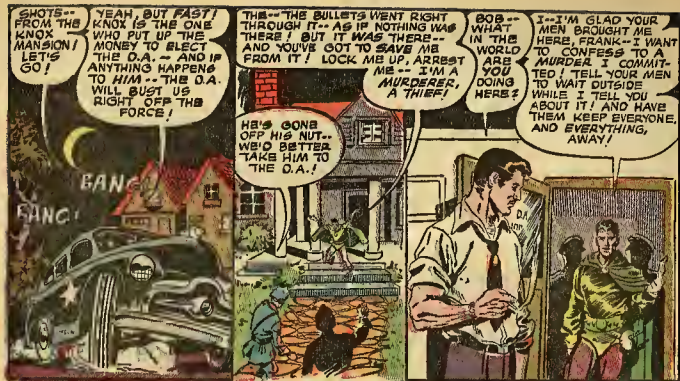
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THIS WOULD HAPPEN SOME DAY! I SHOULD HAVE KEPT THAT ACCURSED SKULL IN A FIREPROOF SAFETY VAULT-- BUT NO, I WANTED TO HAVE IT HERE, WHERE I COULD LOOK AT IT EACH DAY AND REASSURE MYSELF THAT I STILL HAD IT!

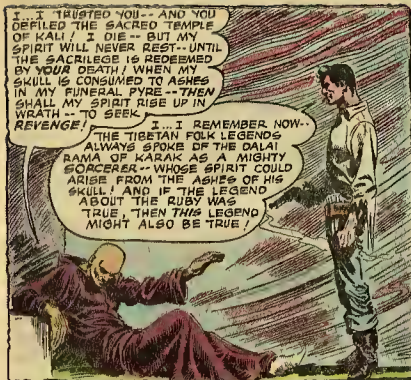


TAP! TAP!



IT--IT'S YOU-- YOU'VE COME FOR ME! I'LL HAVE TO KILL YOU AGAIN-- THE WAY I FINISHED YOU TEN YEARS AGO!





I... I TRUSTED YOU-- AND YOU DEFILED THE SACRED TEMPLE OF KALI! I DIE-- BUT MY SPIRIT WILL NEVER REST--UNTIL THE SACRILEGE IS REDEEMED BY YOUR DEATH! WHEN MY SKULL IS CONSUMED TO ASHES IN MY FUNERAL PYRE-- THEN SHALL MY SPIRIT RISE UP IN WRATH-- TO SEEK REVENGE!

I... I REMEMBER NOW-- THE TIBETAN FOLK LEGENDS ALWAYS SPOKE OF THE DALAI RAMA OF KARAK AS A MIGHTY SOCCERER-- WHOSE SPIRIT COULD ARISE FROM THE ASHES OF HIS SKULL! AND IF THE LEGEND ABOUT THE RUBY WAS TRUE, THEN THIS LEGEND MIGHT ALSO BE TRUE!

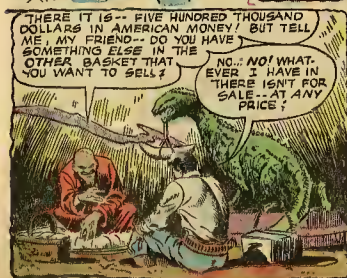


--IS TO KEEP THAT SKULL ALWAYS IN MY POSSESSION!

"I FLED-- CARRYING IN ONE HAND THE RUBY OF KALI, AND IN THE OTHER, THE HEAD OF THE DALAI RAMA OF KARAK--"



I'VE GOT TO STOP THINKING ABOUT THE DALAI-- AND THINK ONLY OF THE FORTUNE THE RUBY WILL BRING ME! A MAHARAJAH WOULD PAY A COOL MILLION FOR IT-- BUT I'LL PROBABLY HAVE TO SETTLE FOR HALF THAT AMOUNT WHEN I SELL IT ON THE BLACK MARKET AT CALCUTTA!



THERE IT IS-- FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS IN AMERICAN MONEY! BUT TELL ME, MY FRIEND-- DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING ELSE IN THE OTHER BASKET THAT YOU WANT TO SELL?

NO... NO! WHAT- EVER I HAVE IN THERE ISN'T FOR SALE-- AT ANY PRICE!

WITH MY DYING BREATH-- I CURSE YOU! MAY YOUR SON BETRAY YOU-- MAY-- OHH!

HE'S GONE-- BUT I CAN'T AFFORD TO TAKE ANY CHANCES ABOUT HIS SPIRIT! I'VE SEEN TOO MUCH OF THE ORIENT TO DOUBT THAT THERE ARE MYSTERIOUS, SUPERNATURAL FORCES THAT WE WESTERNERS KNOW NOTHING ABOUT! AND THE ONLY WAY TO MAKE SURE THAT THE DALAI'S SPIRIT DOES NOT RISE FROM THE ASHES OF HIS SKULL--



... AND THAT'S HOW I CAME INTO MY WEALTH! BUT NOW THAT THE SKULL HAS BEEN BURN'T TO ASHES, YOU'VE GOT TO SAVE ME FROM THE DALAI'S VENGEFUL SPIRIT! ARREST ME-- KEEP ME UNDER CONSTANT WATCH-- SO HE DOESN'T GET ME!



DON'T WORRY ABOUT A THING, BOB! ER-- DON'T YOU THINK A LONG REST IN SOME-- AH-- INSTITUTION MIGHT HELP YOU?

NO... NO! I'M NOT CRAZY! THE
BALD'S SPIRIT WILL GET ME,
UNLESS YOU PROTECT ME! IF
YOU DON'T
BELIEVE
ME, I'LL--

MIKE... WALLY!
CALL THE HOSPI-
TAL-- AND TELL
THEM TO BRING A
STRAITJACKET!



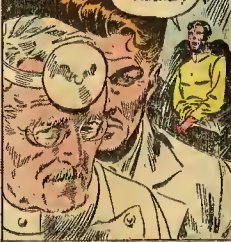
YOU'VE
GOT TO
BELIEVE
ME! LISTEN
TO ME--

WOW! THIS
ONE'S A
REAL
CASE!



THAT SEDATIVE WE GAVE HIM
WILL MAKE HIM QUIET DOWN
PRETTY SOON! AND MEAN-
WHILE, HIS SHOUTS WON'T
DISTURB THE OTHER PATIENTS--
BECAUSE THIS ROOM IS
COMPLETELY SOUNDPROOF!

NO! DON'T
LEAVE ME
ALONE!



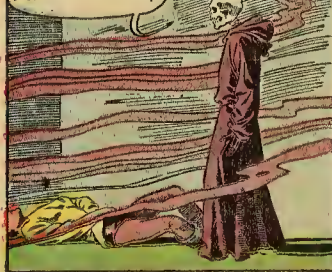
GETTING SLEEPY...
SO SLEEPY... CAN'T
KEEP... MY EYES...
OPEN--



NO... HELP--HEL--
AARGHHH!!

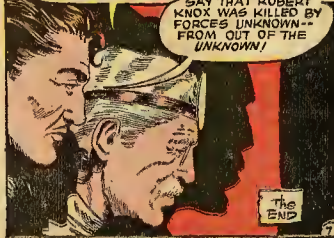


I AM REVENGED--
NOW I CAN REST!



LATER-- IT.. IT CAN'T
BE A CASE OF
SELF-STRANGULATION--
HE'S STILL IN HIS
STRAITJACKET!

I GUESS THERE
WAS SOMETHING
TO THAT WILD
STORY HE TOLD ME!
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO
SAY THAT ROBERT
KNOX WAS KILLED BY
FORCES UNKNOWN--
FROM OUT OF THE
UNKNOWN!



THE
END

Pursuit INTO THE PAST

THE TWO MEN sat in a booth at the far end of the dimly-lighted tavern, drinking and talking. Or, rather one of them...the drunken one...was doing all the talking. They had met only a few minutes ago at the bar, and the inebriated one... obviously under a tremendous strain, obviously in need of someone to pour his troubles out to...had invited the second man over to the booth for a drink.

"I...I can't stand this waiting any longer," the first man said desperately. "Never knowing when they'll catch up with me, when they'll drag me back to the world I came from, to the world of 2967 A. D.!"

The man paused to drink from the glass in front of him, as if to give himself courage for what he felt he had to say. "I...I know you won't believe me," he continued after draining his glass and signaling the bartender for another. "But it's just as well that you think I'm revving in a drunken delirium, or that I'm a madman. I don't care what you think, as long as you listen to me...if I don't talk about this to someone, I...I will go crazy!"

The second man nodded sympathetically, as if he understood...and the first man continued: "You see, I originally came from the 30th century. You couldn't possibly have any idea what that world is like. The robots control all aspects of life...from the moment of birth, the human infant is assigned to his place in life, according to what the robot analyzers think he's best suited for. And from that moment on, the human's life becomes ordered and regimented down to the very last detail.

"There's no chance for the slightest expression of individualism, of freedom of will or choice. It all amounts to what you Americans would call a slave-state...where all humans are slaves to the all-powerful, eternal, heartless robots!

"In that world, I was an historian of the

past. Mine was the job of using the time-machine to return to the dead ages of the past, investigate those ages, and then return to the 30th century to write up the history. It was expected that I return...it was unthinkable that I should not. And the thought never crossed my mind to remain in the Stone Age, or in the era of the Roman Empire, for example...until I came to the United States in the year 1951.

"At first I was astonished at the democracy that you Americans take for granted. I was amazed at the freedom all of you had, at your ability to choose your own lives, to do pretty much what you pleased, as long as you hurt no one else. And as I lived among you day after day, studying your habits and customs, I slowly realized that this was the kind of life I wanted and longed for...that I could never go back to that despotic slave-state of the robots after once having tasted the freedom and democracy here.

"So I deserted my century and my masters. I destroyed the instrument that was necessary for my return to 2967 A. D. ... and became one of you! But I know it is impossible to keep a secret from my robot masters. I am long overdue, and I am sure that they have long since sent a detective to follow me into the past and force me to return...to my death! And since my pursuer must be a man who has been trained in the arts of detection since the moment of his birth, I know I cannot escape...no matter how well I cover my tracks and try to lose myself among you. Any day now my pursuer will find me, place a strong hand on my shoulder and say..."

The second man reached over, placed a hand on the first man's shoulder, and said, "I have found you, Rog Halith! But I, too, love this democracy I find myself in! We will both remain here...and persuade all those who come after us to do the same!"

The WITCH'S APPRENTICE



"THIS IS MY STORY--A STRANGE, UNEARTHLY STORY! I AM WRITING IT IN A PRISON CELL WHERE I FACE A CHARGE OF MURDER--**SELF-CONFESSED MURDER!** BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE, I WANT TO TELL EVERYTHING--HOW I MET OLD KATE, THE WITCH--HOW I LIVED IN HER EERIE COTTAGE--HOW SHE TAUGHT ME THE DREAD SECRETS OF HER **BLACK MAGIC!** AND HOW, ON THAT TERRIBLE NIGHT, I STALKED A MAN THROUGH THE RAIN-SOAKED WOODS UNTIL MY HANDS FASTENED AROUND HIS THROAT AND I OBEYED OLD KATE'S FINAL COMMAND AS--

THE WITCH'S APPRENTICE!"

"**IT** ALL BEGAN, I SUPPOSE, THE DAY I RAN AWAY FROM THE ORPHANAGE AT THE AGE OF THIRTEEN! I DIDN'T CARE IN WHAT DIRECTION THE FREIGHT TRAIN WAS GOING--JUST AS LONG AS IT TOOK ME AWAY FROM THE PLACE WHERE I HAD BEEN SO DESPERATELY UNHAPPY!"



"**IT** WAS OCTOBER--AND COLD! AS EVENING APPROACHED, I WAS CHILLED TO THE BONE! WHEN THE FREIGHT SLOWED TO ROUND A BEND, I HALF-JUMPED, HALF-FELL OFF!"

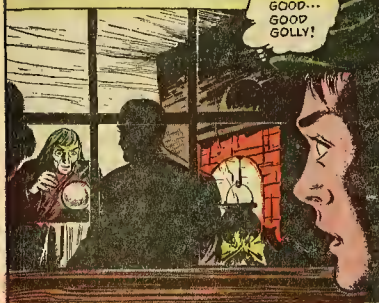


"**I** WAS HUNGRY AND SCARED AS I PICKED MYSELF UP AND STRUCK OUT THROUGH THE WOODS TOWARDS A TOWN I'D SEEN IN THE DISTANCE! AND THEN, ABRUPTLY, I CAME ON A LOW COTTAGE HIDDEN DEEP IN THE TREES! A LIGHT SHONE FROM A WINDOW--"

MAYBE THEY'LL GIVE ME SOMETHING TO EAT! BUT I'LL HAVE TO BE CAREFUL--IF THEY GET WISE I'VE RUN AWAY, THE COPS WILL SEND ME BACK TO THE ORPHANAGE!



5 CREEPT CLOSER, PEERED THROUGH THE WINDOW! THERE WAS A MAN...A STRANGE OLD WOMAN GAZING INTO A GLASS BALL! AND THE ROOM...IT WAS SPOOKY-LOOKING!"



GOOD...
GOOD
GOLLY!

"SUDDENLY THE MAN JUMPED TO HIS FEET, GRASPED THE OLD WOMAN BY THE THROAT...STARTED TO CHOKE HER!"



HE'S--HE'S GONNA
KILL HER! I'VE GOT
TO DO SOME-
THING!

6 PICKED UP A ROCK AND THREW IT AT THE WINDOW, BREAKING THE GLASS! IT WAS THE ONLY THING I COULD THINK OF!"



"WHEN THE
MAN HAD
FLED..."



MAYBE...MAYBE
SHE'S DEAD!

**BUT THE OLD WOMAN STILL
LIVED! WHEN I REVIVED HER...**



YOU SAVED MY
LIFE, LAD! HE
WAS GOING TO
KILL ME!

THAT'S--THAT'S
WHY I BROKE THE
WINDOW--TO
SCARE HIM!

"THE OLD WOMAN SEEMED TO RECOVER QUICKLY! WITHOUT A WORD, SHE BROUGHT ME FOOD! I WONDERED HOW SHE KNEW I WAS HUNGRY! I WAS TO WONDER ABOUT A LOT OF THINGS BEFORE I WAS THROUGH WITH OLD KATE!"



EAT, LAD! YOU MUST BE
STARVED AFTER YOUR
LONG TRIP ON THAT
FREIGHT
TRAIN!

HOW...HOW DID
YOU KNOW ABOUT
THAT?

AH, I HAVE MY WAYS!
DON'T BE AFRAID--I
WON'T TELL ANYONE
THAT YOU RAN AWAY FROM
THE ORPHANAGE!



THE RADIO! THEY
BROADCAST OVER THE
RADIO THAT I'D ESCAPED!
THAT'S HOW YOU
KNEW!

"THERE WAS SOMETHING FRIGHTENING ABOUT THE OLD WOMAN'S FACE AS SHE STARED AT ME! IT WAS AS IF SHE WERE READING MY VERY THOUGHTS! HER EYES WERE GREENISH-- AND GLOWED LIKE A CAT'S!"

I HAVE NO RADIO, LAD--- I NEED NONE! I HAVE THE POWER TO SEE INTO THE PAST AND INTO THE FUTURE! PEOPLE BELIEVE I AM JUST A FORTUNE TELLER--- A CHARLATAN! THE FOOLS COME HERE FOR AMUSEMENT--- LIKE THAT MAN! BUT I SAW IN THE CRYSTAL THAT HE HAD MURDERED SOMEONE AND HAD NEVER BEEN CAUGHT! THAT IS WHY HE ATTACKED ME--- TO SILENCE ME! YOU SEE, I'M A--- WITCH!

ULP!

"ES WAS PETRIFIED WITH FRIGHT! I WANTED TO GET AWAY FROM THIS PLACE--- FROM HER! BUT I COULDN'T MOVE! I SEEMED TO BE HELD BY INVISIBLE BONDS!"

ALL THE ANCIENT SECRETS OF WITCH-CRAFT ARE MINE--- AND THEY SHALL BE YOURS! YOU HAVE BEEN SENT TO ME--- YOU HAVE SAVED MY LIFE! FOR THAT I WILL TEACH YOU EVERYTHING I KNOW! I WILL MAKE YOU INTO A WIZARD!

NO!
NO!

YOU WILL DO AS I SAY--- NOW IT IS TIME TO SLEEP! RESTFUL SLEEP! SLEEP--- SLEEP---

"ES STAYED AT OLD KATE'S THAT NIGHT AND THE NEXT--- AND THE NEXT! IT WAS AS IF I WERE MESMERIZED! I DIDN'T WANT TO STAY THERE--- YET, I'LL HAVE TO ADMIT OLD KATE WAS GOOD TO ME! SHE WAS THE ONLY PERSON I EVER REMEMBER WHO SEEMED TO CARE FOR ME! BUT I WAS AFRAID OF HER!"

THIS AFTERNOON ONE OF THE TOWN OFFICIALS ASKED ME ABOUT YOU, TIM! I TOLD HIM YOU WERE MY NEPHEW AND WERE STAYING WITH ME! BUT YOU WILL HAVE TO GO TO SCHOOL, LAD! THERE'S A LAW---

YES, I--- KNOW---

"OLD KATE WAS RIDICULED BY THE PEOPLE--- BUT SHE WAS FEARED! AND MY SCHOOL MATES WEREN'T SLOW IN TAUNTING ME--- PARTICULARLY NED RAWSON---"

TIM! TIM! THE WITCH'S BOY!

GET ON YOUR BROOMSTICK! WE DON'T WANT YOUR KIND AROUND HERE!

"ES MADE THE MISTAKE OF TURNING ON MY TORMENTORS! THIS WAS JUST WHAT NED WANTED!"

STAY OUT OF MY WAY, OR YOU'LL GET WORSE THAN THAT!

GIVE IT TO HIM, NED!

"OLD KATE SAW MY TORN CLOTHES AND BLACK EYE, BUT DIDN'T ASK ME WHAT HAPPENED! SHE KNEW!"

SO YOU'VE HAD TROUBLE WITH THAT NED RAWSON!

I--- I TRIED TO FIGHT HIM! BUT HE'S TOO BIG AND STRONG!

YOU CAN BEAT HIM... IF YOU DO AS I SAY!
GET SOMETHING BELONGING TO HIM...
LIKE STRANDS OF HIS HAIR...



"**55** FOLLOWED OLD KATE'S INSTRUCTIONS... I ALWAYS
DID WHAT SHE SAID! WHEN I SAW NED IN THE BARBER-
SHOP NEXT DAY, I SLIPPED IN, GRABBED A HANDFUL OF
HIS HAIR..."

GET THE WITCH TO CUT
YOUR HAIR... THIS IS NO
PLACE FOR YOU!... HEY!
WHAT'RE YOU AFTER?

ER... DROPPED
MY GLOVE, THAT'S
ALL!



"OLD KATE HAD A HUGE CALDRON BUBBLING OVER THE FIRE! SHE
DROPPED THE HAIR INTO A DARK, SEETHING LIQUID, THEN ADDED
THE CONTENTS OF A NUMBER OF BOTTLES! AND ALL THE TIME
...SHE CHANTED!"

BOIL...BOIL...SIMMER AND BUBBLE
...MAGIC CHARM AGAINST ALL TROUBLE
...BOIL...BOIL...SIMMER AND
BUBBLE...



DRINK IT! AND WHEN YOU MEET
THAT BULLY, LOOK HIM IN THE EYE!
YOU'LL HAVE NO MORE TROUBLE
FROM HIM... OR ANYONE!



"NEXT MORN-
ING WHEN I
WENT TO THE
GROCERY
STORE FOR
OLD KATE, I
KNEW THAT
THE TEST HAD
COME! FOR
THERE ANNO,
WAITING FOR
ME, WAS NED
AND HIS
GANG!"

GET OFF THE SIDEWALK,
WITCH'S BOY! THE ROAD IS
THE PLACE FOR YOU!



I'VE HAD ENOUGH
FROM YOU, NED
RAWSON!



"**55** WAS BARELY CONSCIOUS OF
HIS OWN FIST COMING UP... UNTIL
IT CONNECTED WITH NED'S JAW!"

HERE'S SOMETHING
TO REMEMBER
ME BY!





"OLD KATE WAS RIGHT! I NEVER HAD ANY MORE TROUBLE FROM NED! IT WAS ALMOST AS IF I HAD SOME POWER OVER HIM AND THE OTHERS, TOO! FROM THAT MOMENT ON, MY LIFE WAS CHANGED! I HAD FELT AN OUTCAST AT SCHOOL, BUT NOW, SUDDENLY, I WAS INCLUDED!"

"ES BECAME POPULAR... WENT TO THE SCHOOL DANCES AND WAS ASKED TO PARTIES AT THE HOMES OF THE BEST PEOPLE IN TOWN! NOBODY CALLED ME 'WITCH'S BOY' ANY MORE."

OH, TIM, YOU'RE A WONDERFUL DANCER!



"ALL THE TIME, OLD KATE WAS TEACHING ME MANY THINGS... DARK AND MYSTERIOUS THINGS... HOW TO BUILD CHARMS; HOW TO USE SECOND-SIGHT AND MENTAL TELEPATHY! SHE EVEN HELPED ME WITH MY SCHOOL WORK..."

LOOK THROUGH THAT PIECE OF GROUND GLASS, LAD, AND THE KNOWLEDGE IN THOSE PAGES WILL BE **YOURS FOREVER!**



"ES BECAME BRILLIANT IN SCHOOL! NOTHING WAS TOO DIFFICULT! MY TEACHERS WERE STARTLED... FOR FREQUENTLY I KNEW MORE THAN THEY DID!"

IT'S **UNCANNY!** HE SEEMS TO ANTICIPATE EACH QUESTION I ASK AND HAS THE ANSWER INSTANTLY!

BRIGHTEST PUPIL WE'VE EVER HAD! ALMOST **TOO BRIGHT!**



"ES WASN'T JUST IN THE SCHOOL ROOM THAT I SHONE! I BECAME THE STAR HITTER OF THE BALL TEAM! I FOUND IT EASY TO OUTGUSS THE PITCHERS! MY BATTING AVERAGE WAS IMPRESSIVE..."

THAT KID TIM IS **BIG LEAGUE STUFF!**

ANOTHER **HOMER!**



"THE PRETTIEST AND MOST POPULAR GIRL IN TOWN WAS THELMA STARR, BANKER'S DAUGHTER! PRACTICALLY EVERY BOY TRIED TO DATE HER! BUT WHEN I DECIDED THAT SHE WOULD BE **MY GIRL**... SHE WAS!"

I'M TAKING YOU TO THE PROM, THELMA!

I'D PROMISED SAM... BUT I'LL GO WITH **YOU, TIM!**



"EVERYTHING WAS WONDERFUL...EXCEPT FOR THE FACT THAT I KNEW MY SUCCESS WASN'T REAL! I KNEW WHAT OLD KATE WAS DOING! SHE WAS MAKING ME, BIT BY BIT, INTO A MALE WITCH! AND I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF!"

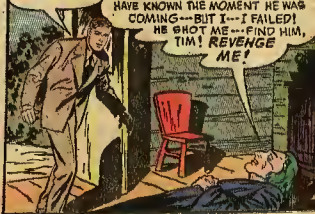
YOU MUST LISTEN AND LEARN! FOR SOONER OR LATER, MY LIFE MUST END--AND WHEN IT DOES, YOU WILL HAVE THE SECRETS TO GO ON WITH!



"15 YEARS PASSED! I GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL WITH THE HIGHEST HONORS, WENT TO A SMALL COLLEGE IN A NEIGHBORING CITY! THEN ONE DAY WHEN I RETURNED HOME..."

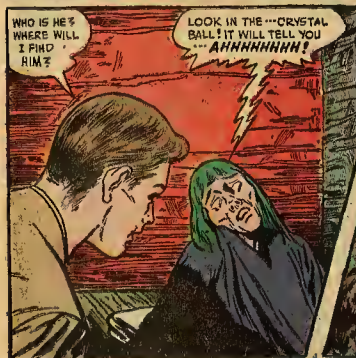
KATE!
WHAT'S
HAPPENED?

I'M... DYING, LAD! HE CAME BACK... THE ONE WHO WAS HERE BEFORE! I KNEW HE WOULD... BUT MY POWERS HAVE BEEN DIMMING! I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THE MOMENT HE WAS COMING... BUT I... I FAILED! HE SHOT ME... FIND HIM, TIM! REVENGE ME!



WHO IS HE?
WHERE WILL
I FIND
HIM?

LOOK IN THE... CRYSTAL
BALL! IT WILL TELL YOU
... AHHHHHHH!

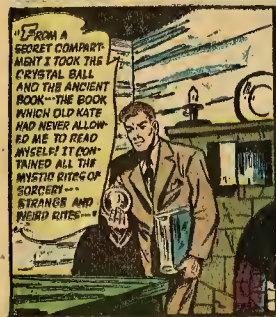


"SHE LAPSED INTO UNCONSCIOUSNESS, AND BY THE TIME I GOT A DOCTOR, OLD KATE WAS DEAD! I BURIED HER BENEATH THE OAK TREES..."

YOU WERE... GOOD TO ME,
KATE! I'LL FIND THE MAN
WHO KILLED YOU... AND
THEN...



"FROM A SECRET COMPARTMENT I TOOK THE CRYSTAL BALL AND THE ANCIENT BOOK--THE BOOK WHICH OLD KATE HAD NEVER ALLOWED ME TO READ MYSELF! IT CONTAINED ALL THE MYSTIC RITES OF SORCERY--STRANGE AND WEIRD RITES..."



"AND, WITHIN THE CRYSTAL
BALL..."

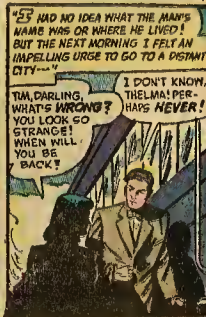
THERE HE IS...
OLD KATE'S
MURDERER!

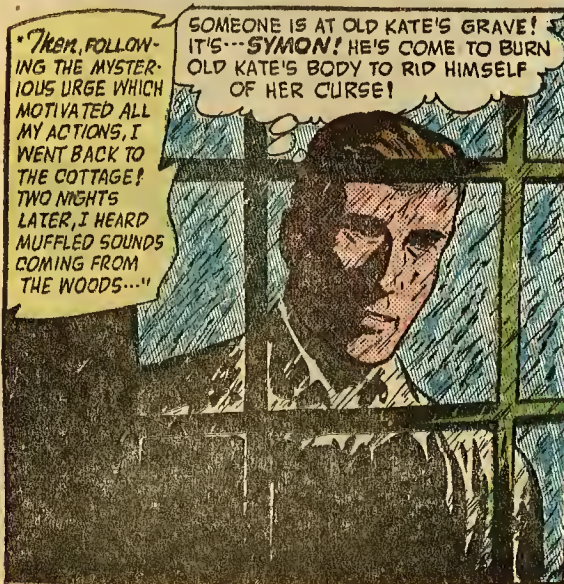
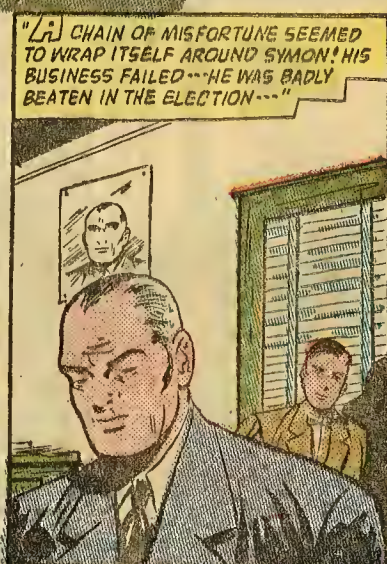
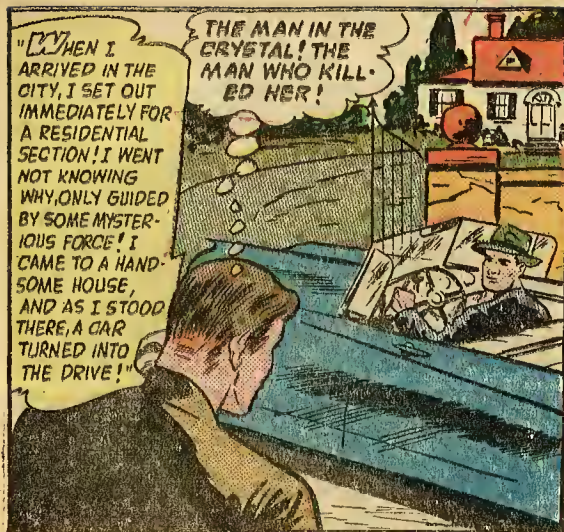


"BUT I HAD NO IDEA WHAT THE MAN'S NAME WAS OR WHERE HE LIVED! BUT THE NEXT MORNING I FELT AN IMPELLING URGE TO GO TO A DISTANT CITY..."

TIM, DARLING,
WHAT'S WRONG?
YOU LOOK SO
STRANGE!
WHEN WILL
YOU BE
BACK?

I DON'T KNOW,
THELMA! PER-
HAPS NEVER!





"HE TURNED ON ME, SPADE UPRaised TO STRIKE! I MOVED IN CLOSER---AND MY NAnOs WENT INVOLUNTARILY TO HIS THROAT!"



"SYMON FELL---DEAD! I WENT TO THE POLICE, GAVE MYSELF UP!---THAT'S MY STORY! THAT'S NOW IT HAPPENED!"

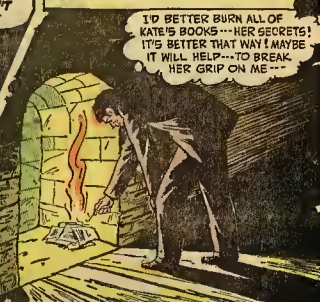


AN AUTOPSY'S BEEN PERFORMED ON SYMON! HE DIDN'T DIE OF STRANGULATION---BUT FROM HEART FAILURE! YOU CAN GO HOME, TIM! YOU'RE FREE!

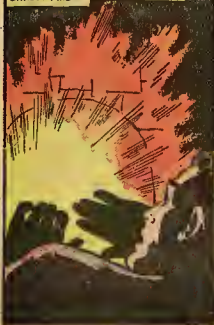


LATER---IN THE COTTAGE IN THE WOODS---

I'D BETTER BURN ALL OF KATE'S BOOKS---HER SECRETS! IT'S BETTER THAT WAY! MAYBE IT WILL HELP---TO BREAK HER GRIP ON ME---



BUT THE SECOND THE FLAME TOUCHED THE PAPERS---A BLINDING BLAZE OF UNHOLY FIRE---



IN A TWINKLING, THE COTTAGE IS A MASS OF FLAMES!

YOU HAVE DONE WHAT I WANTED, LAD---NOW YOU CAN GO! ALL THE RECORDS OF WITCHCRAFT ARE DESTROYED! YOU ARE RELEASED, TIM---RE-LEASED!

OLD KATE!



LATER---

IT'S GOOD TO HAVE YOU BACK, TIM---BUT YOU'VE CHANGED! THERE USED TO BE SOMETHING ABOUT YOU THAT MADE ME AFRAID! NOW---IT'S GONE!

YES, THELMA, IT'S GONE---FOR-
EVER! NOW I CAN LIVE A FREE, NORMAL LIFE! NOW I CAN ASK YOU TO---MARRY ME!



THE END!
8

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Name _____ Age _____

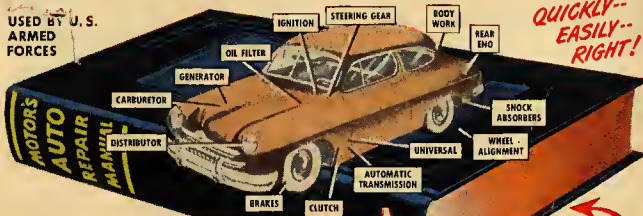
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